

CORE VALUE SPEECHES

PUBLIC SPEAKING

CHARACTER EDUCATION

LITERATURE

LEADERSHIP

AT A GLANCE

GRADES	6-12
TIME	Three sessions, each 30 minutes long.
HANDOUTS	1. The Four Core Values; 2. Speech Frame; 3. Feedback Card

THE STORY PROBLEM

Storybook County's characters have been asked to speak at the Opening Session about the value their story taught them. The Boy Who Cried Wolf has thoughts on honesty.

► THE PROCESS PRACTICED

The core value speech. YMCA Youth and Government is built on the YMCA's four core values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Candidates must tie their campaigns to them, Governors build themes on them, and middle school Resource Team training opens with core value speeches. In this lesson every student gives a short speech on one core value, delivered as a public domain character who learned that value the hard way.

► CHARACTERS FOR CONSIDERATION (ONE VALUE EACH IS SUGGESTED; STUDENTS MAY ARGUE FOR A DIFFERENT PAIRING):

1. **The Boy Who Cried Wolf** (honesty)
2. **Ebenezer Scrooge, reformed** (caring)
3. **Goldilocks** (respect)
4. **The Ant and the Grasshopper** (responsibility)
5. **The Tortoise** (responsibility)
6. **The Emperor, after the parade** (honesty)
7. **Pinocchio** (honesty)
8. **Beauty, or the Beast** (respect)
9. **The Little Red Hen** (responsibility, with a question about caring)
10. **Dorothy Gale** (caring; she went back for everyone)
11. **Mr. Toad, after the motorcar** (responsibility)
12. **The Big Bad Wolf** (respect, as a challenge: can he give this speech sincerely?)

► LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to define each of the four core values in their own words and give an example of each from a story.
- Students will be able to write and deliver a ninety-second speech with a clear structure: the moment, the lesson, the value, the ask.
- Students will be able to give specific, kind feedback using a rubric.

- Students will be able to keep the term "core values" distinct from the names of other programs.

► MATERIALS:

- Handout: "The Four Core Values" (Supporting Document 1)
- Handout: "Speech Frame" (Supporting Document 2)
- Handout: "Feedback Card" (Supporting Document 3)
- Timer and gavel

► PRE-PLANNING:

- Each student chooses or draws a character and a value. Spread the values evenly across the room.
- Decide whether speeches will be delivered to the whole class or in groups of six with a student Chair for each group (faster, and more students get to chair).

SESSION 1 WHAT THE VALUES MEAN

30 MINUTES

- 5** **Hook.** Ask who in a story was honest at a cost. Collect answers. Explain that the YMCA's four core values show up in every part of Youth and Government, from campaign rules to how a Chair treats a nervous speaker.
- 10** **Define.** In four groups, each group takes one value and writes a definition in its own words plus two story examples, one of the value kept and one of it broken. Groups report. Post the definitions.
- 10** **Match.** Students choose or draw a character and a value and write the one moment in the story where that value was tested.
- 5** **Frame Preview.** Read the Speech Frame aloud.

SESSION 2 WRITING AND PRACTICING

30 MINUTES

- 15** **Draft.** Students write a ninety-second speech (about 180 to 220 words) in character: the moment (what happened), the lesson (what I understood afterward), the value (name it and define it as I now understand it), the ask (what I want the delegates to do this session).
- 10** **Partner Practice.** Partners time each other, giving one gavel tap at 30 seconds remaining and two at 15. Partners complete a Feedback Card.
- 5** **Revise.** Trim or add to hit ninety seconds.

SESSION 3 THE SPEECHES

30 MINUTES

- 25** **Deliver.** A student Chair calls each speaker: "The Chair recognizes [character] of [district] on the value of [value]." Speakers deliver. Each listener completes a Feedback Card for two assigned speakers, so every speaker receives two cards.
- 5** **Wrap-Up.** Collect the cards and hand them to the speakers. Ask: which value was hardest to speak about sincerely, and why? Which speech changed how you see a character?

► ASSESSMENT

Structure Moment, lesson, value and ask all present and in order.	25
Value Understanding The value is defined accurately and connected to the story moment, not just named.	25
Character Voice The speech sounds like the character and uses a specific story event.	20
Delivery Within time; audible; eye contact; responds to gavel signals.	20
Feedback Given Feedback Cards specific and kind.	10

► DIFFERENTIATION

Support

Provide a completed sample speech for the Tortoise on responsibility. Allow sixty seconds. Let students read from the page.

Challenge

Assign the Wolf or the Queen of Hearts and require a sincere speech on respect without excusing past behavior. Or require the speech to connect the value to a specific bill in the class bill book.

THE FOUR CORE VALUES

Caring: Showing a sincere concern for others.

Honesty: Being truthful in what you say and do.

Respect: Following the golden rule; treating others as you would want to be treated.

Responsibility: Being accountable for your promises and actions.

Note for teachers and students: "core values" (c-o-r-e) is the YMCA's term for these four. It is a different thing from Y-Corps (c-o-r-p-s), which is a YMCA summer service program. Keep the two apart in speeches and in writing.

SPEECH FRAME (NINETY SECONDS)

1. **The moment.** "The third time I shouted wolf, nobody came. The wolf did."
2. **The lesson.** "I understood that every true thing I would ever say was now worth less, because of the two false things I had said before."
3. **The value.** "Honesty is not only not lying. It is protecting the value of your own word so that it is there when someone needs it."
4. **The ask.** "This session, when you stand to speak on a bill, say only what you can prove from the story. Keep your word worth something."

FEEDBACK CARD

Speaker (character): _____ Value: _____

One thing that was clear and strong: _____

One specific suggestion: _____

Did I hear all four parts (moment, lesson, value, ask)? Y / N Which was missing or weak? _____

Time: _____ seconds

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Storybook County Lesson Plans use public domain stories to practice real YMCA Youth and Government processes: bills, committees, debate, courts, elections, service, and proposals. Every lesson is three or four 30-minute sessions, and all of them live in one folder:

drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MieLDxVzKNq7QTjw2EPFDqgMOaaJ2US. Part of the YMCA Youth and Government Educator Toolkit at nysyag.org. Questions: Drew Caldwell, dcaldwell@ymcanys.org.